

Critical Resource Lands Conservation for Agriculture

Criteria for selection of conservation projects

Currently there is \$100,000.00 available for critical agricultural resource land conservation projects.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has appointed an advisory committee to review and make recommendations on which projects to fund. Members of the committee were selected from the Critical Lands Resource Conservation Committee which was created through legislative action in 1998. The Committee will also seek recommendations from local agricultural interests and local political subdivisions.

The Critical Resource Lands Conservation Committee (CRLCC) represents the state's first large-scale governmental effort to preserve and protect critical agricultural resource lands. The committee acknowledges earlier and continuing efforts by the various land trusts in Utah, and intends to work in harmony with those groups.

Such agricultural conservation projects may be, but not limited to, the purchase of easements or development rights to agricultural property, or long term lease of agricultural property.

In the case of private property, it is the intent of the legislature to keep these critical resource lands in private ownership while preserving the property's future agricultural contribution to the community.

The projects selection committee will advise the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food in the review and prioritization of projects that protect critical resource lands such as prime agricultural land or land classified as unique or of statewide importance. In order to ensure the highest quality of life in Utah, the exceptional values of these agricultural and critical resource lands will be the standard. These lands:

- Sustain our food supply
- Sustain and improve our water quality
- Contribute to a sense of openness in our communities
- Contribute a positive tax flow for local governments
- Support wildlife habitat

Highest priority will be given to projects that:

Incorporate additional local, state, federal or private funding sources to match those funds being requested of this committee. And projects that incorporate:

- Prime agricultural land or land that is designated unique or of statewide importance.
- Land that contributes to Utah's sustainable food supply
- Land that would promote the state's interest of self reliance
- Land that serves the critical food resource needs for the future
- Land that is compatible with existing local zoning laws
- Land that if set aside will be of such size and quality to be self-sustaining.

Individuals, groups or political entities wishing to submit a proposal should seek an Application for Financial Assistance From the Critical Resource Lands Conservation for Agriculture Fund from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Commissioner's Office, 350 N. Redwood Rd., P.O., Box 146500, Salt Lake City, UT 84114, (801) 53 8-7105.